

# THE GREENBELT

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## Super Recycler Days: Flexibility

Remember when we had Super Clean-up Days when we could put out several bags of extra garbage and yard waste and have it picked up on two, pre-assigned days?

Well, we now have something even better: Super Recycler Day.

This service can be scheduled twice a year at *your* convenience and not just pre-assigned days. Call Waste Management at 831-796-2200 at least two days ahead of time to schedule this extra pickup.

Regular bagged garbage will be picked up on your regular pick-up day. Bulky items will be picked up by a special truck 3-5 days after scheduling.

You can fill an area 4-foot X 6-

foot X 8-foot with everything except hazardous waste. Other restrictions are, during each Super Recycler Day, you may put out one appliance, two mattress and box spring sets (four pieces), and five tires.

Two items that contain an amount of hazardous waste can be included in limited quantity: TV sets and computer monitors. You may put out two, either two of one kind or one TV and one monitor.

If you have hazardous waste, you can drop it off at the landfill off Del Monte Avenue (near the Dole Warehouse) or at the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, 1120 Madison Lane, Salinas, (off Boronda near Orchard Supply) phone number 831-755-1300.

## Fire Safety is for Everyone

No one wants their home to catch fire, however, few people actively try to prevent the preventable.

Every year, thousands of house fires are caused because of carelessness or failure to check for the most basic fire risks.

Wood-burning appliances or fireplaces account for about 20% of all residential fires. Most of these fires are caused because of improper installation, use or maintenance.

Many of the fire-related deaths could have been prevented by having working smoke detector and making and practicing a fire-escape plan.

Investigate your home for the fire-hazard items on the list below. You will be surprised at what you find when you take the time to look.

Also, check out the list of "To-Do's."

**Continued Page 2 & 3**

# Fire Safety: Homeowner To-Do List



## Fire extinguisher:

Have a fire extinguisher mounted on the wall in an easily accessible position. If a small fire starts and you have time to deal with it without putting yourself at risk, an extinguisher will enable you to put it out quickly and effectively. **Know how to use the extinguisher** and know which is the right sort of extinguisher for which type of fire.

## Smoke detectors:

All smoke alarms in your house should be tested once a month, and their batteries replaced annually.

Install a working smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.

## Escape plan:

Every family should develop a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year.

**Keep escape routes clear:** Don't block

the corridor, door or window that you might need to use in a hurry if you had to escape a fire.

## Emergency numbers:

Teach your children the 911 emergency number and your home address. Have children practice what to say. In case of a fire, evacuate the house before calling for help.

## Check candles

They can go on smoldering, so double-check they're out. Never leave one burning when you leave the room or go to sleep.

**Chimneys:** Have the chimney checked and cleaned routinely by a chimney "sweep" at least once a year. Inspect it frequently, as often as twice a month if necessary, and clean when a creosote buildup is noted.

**Dryer:** Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes.

## Renee Venegas

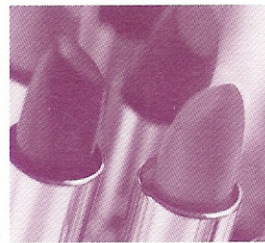
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# Fire Safety: Residential Check List

## In General:

- ◆ Look for overloaded plugs; try to use one plug per socket. If more are plugged into a socket, don't use all of the appliances plugged into it at the same time.
- ◆ Check for worn or taped electrical wires and cords. These are dangerous; replace them. Don't put wires or cords under carpets or mats where they can become worn.
- ◆ Watch out for hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow for no obvious reason, flickering lights, scorch marks on sockets or plugs. They're all signs of loose wiring or other problems.
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters where children can't reach them.
- ◆ Make sure lights aren't positioned near curtains and other materials that could burn.
- ◆ If someone smokes in your house, use proper ashtrays and make sure they can't be knocked over easily. Avoid a build-up of ash, butts and used matches. Wet the contents of the ashtray before putting it in the trash. Never smoke in bed where you could accidentally fall asleep or catch fire to bedding.
- ◆ Don't keep inflammable products, gasoline, solvents (such as some glues or aerosols) or paraffin, in direct sunlight or near a heat source. If you're using something flammable, make sure

the room is well ventilated, and don't light a flame nearby.

## In the Kitchen:

- ◆ Make sure electrical cords don't trail over or go near the stove. Don't hang towels or cloths on or over the stove.
- ◆ Keep the oven and stovetop clean. A build-up of fat and bits of food can start a fire.
- ◆ Check that the toaster is clean and well away from curtains.
- ◆ Don't let cords or plugs get wet. Keep liquids away from electrical appliances.
- ◆ Make sure your stove & oven ventilation is working properly and not blocked up, especially if you have gas appliances.

## In the Bedroom:

- ◆ Check your electric blanket and its flex for fraying, scorch marks, dampness and loose connections. Make sure it's not creased or folded as that can damage the internal wiring and cause overheating. Check it has an over-heat protector, which will cut out the power if it overheats. Electric blankets should be replaced after 10 years.
- ◆ Make sure any portable heater is positioned safely, preferably by a wall and facing the room. Keep it away from furniture or soft furnishings.

## Calendar of Events

**April Board Meeting**—April 6, 7-9 p.m. in the library of North Monterey County High School.

**Community Garage Sale**—Either May 14 or 21. See article, page 4.

**Spring Break**—The pool will tentatively be open for North Monterey County School District's Spring Break. Deciding factors would be weather and availability of qualified life guards.

## Babysitter Needed

**3 Days Per Week**

**Total of  
8-10 Morning Hours  
a Week**

**Call 831-632-2307  
if interested**

**Oak Hills Homeowners  
Association**

P.O. Box 689  
Castroville, CA 95012  
Phone: 831-633-0103

**CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR  
DOC!!**

## **Board in Review**

### **February 2005 meetings**

#### **February Board Meetings:**

- Pete reported out about the condition of the tennis courts. The board discussed converting one side of the court area into a basketball/multi-use court.
- The board reviewed the documents that the Davis-Stirling Act requires be mailed to all homeowners and authorized Steve Naslund to do so.
- The board signed a thank-you certificate for the many years Jim Lucier worked as Administrative Secretary to the Oak Hills Homeowners' Association.
- Committees were formed to write the association job descriptions, prioritize Reserve Study items and write new specifications for the gardeners' contract.

## **Sell Your Unwanted Items; Donate the Rest**

The Community Garage Sale is coming up, so it is time to sort through all those boxes in the garage, closet or storage shed and weed out those items you no longer use or need.

A good rule of thumb – if you packed something away in a box and haven't used it in six months, chances are, you don't need it. Of course, as with all rules, there are exceptions: family pictures and heirlooms.

Once you have identified all the items you don't use, you have the option of donating them and taking a tax write-off or selling them and making some money. Either option frees up closet space and makes you feel like you have accomplished something.

With the Community Garage Sale, you have the best of both worlds. You can sell as much as you can all day long, then let Goodwill pick up the remainder and give you a charitable contribution tag for your taxes.

Suzanne Burr, with Blackhorse Real Estate, has long sponsored these sales. She advertises them in the paper, prints up fliers with the location of each residence that is selling, places balloons at each garage sale, and arranges with Goodwill to pick up the left-over things.

The flier is handed out to anyone coming into Oak Hills and wants a map of the sale locations. If you wish to be included in this map, make sure you contact Suzanne at 633-0514 well ahead of the sale and give her a general list of items you wish to sell, such as baby clothes, exercise bike, furniture, books, or gardening tools. If you have a pricy, unique item, you will have your best chance of selling it if you include it in the flier.

Suzanne said that the last sale had more than 80 participants, but only 70 people called ahead to be listed on her flier. While you don't have to call ahead to participate, remember that if you don't, you may not have the traffic coming by your house. Also, Goodwill uses this list when they come by to pick up donation items.

The Community Garage Sale is still in the planning mode and the firm date has not yet been chosen. However, you might want to set aside May 14 or 21 as the two dates most likely. Contact Suzanne for the firm date or watch for her sign on the corner of Charter and Cathedral Oaks.

Remember, even if you don't plan to sell anything, the Community Garage Sale is a good time to pick up bargains. Shop early for the best selection.